

**To: Education Committee**  
**Date: March 7, 2011**

**Re: S.B. No. 1106 (RAISED)**

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  
EARLY EDUCATION AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT.**

Dear Senator Stillman, Representative Fleischmann and Members of the Education Committee,

My name is Adelaida Garcia, and I am a home-based child care provider from Waterbury.

I am proud of the services I provide, and every day I strive to make sure all of the children I care for get the best possible care while their parents are away at work. But it has been increasingly harder for me and other providers I know to continue to work in this profession.

Right now I have a family that desperately needs subsidized child care for their infant so that the parents can both work full-time to make ends meet. Infant care is very costly for a provider. Lots of supplies are needed, and the hands-on time it requires means you cannot care for as many older children as you would otherwise. For this child I get roughly \$100 a week from the state Care4Kids program-- which actually amounts to a financial loss for me. But I do it anyway because of the passion I have for my work and an understanding of the vital need I supply for this family.

But for me and many other providers I know- it's not just the dollar amounts that make it difficult to stay in business. It's the inaccuracy and bureaucracy of the payment system we currently have. Too often I hear stories of late payments and missing paperwork that make it almost impossible to run a balanced business.

But providers like me aren't necessarily blaming Care4Kids for these problems. The problem is that there has never been any direct provider input into how their policies and procedures were developed. If we were to have an official voice with the state as outlined by SB Bill No. 1106, we would be able to work directly with Care4Kids in order to improve the system—which in turn would improve child care quality in Connecticut .

Please support S.B. No. 1106 (Raised) An Act Concerning the Establishment of the Department of Early Education and Child Development, and give those on the front lines of child care the chance to improve the system for the future citizens of our state.

Sincerely,

Adelaida Garcia  
62 Everitt Street  
Waterbury, CT 06704  
203-756-6370